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Advertising

# BREEZE HILL NEWS

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**HIBISCUS**  
ROSA SINENSIS

# Something About Breeze Hill

*Breeze Hill Gardens continue to report effectively upon many rose varieties, but there is also a constant and careful study of other garden material. An ineffective garden plant requires just as much space and care as do the real garden treasures toward which we are working.*

*These testing facilities are open for any good hardy material. The members of the Holland bulb organization which provided us in 1935-36 with 271 tulip varieties for test, have just advised us of their realization "that Breeze Hill Garden was the most important place they could have for an American test." It is with this intent that we take, after full previous arrangement, new material for garden trial.*

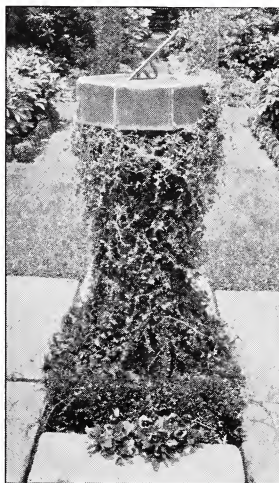
*Very simple terms control this unique trial effort. The arrangements having been completed, the plants, seeds, bulbs, or "what have you" are delivered, in each case, to Breeze Hill without cost to us. The care, consideration, and recording, both written and pictorial, as items are found meritorious, cost our friends nothing more. The photographs and color records made are submitted upon request to the senders of the material for first choice at our regular rates. These records are filed for further reference, being at all times our property.*

*This broad service of illustration is carried on by The Mount Pleasant Press (including The J. Horace McFarland Company and The McFarland Publicity Service) in a sincere effort for general horticultural advance.*

## Uncommon Engravings

*The illustrations in Breeze Hill News are always uncommon, perhaps in variety or viewpoint, but surely in quality. In this issue we have tried out engravings on a metal not new but uncommon for halftone manufacture. These illustrations have all been engraved on brass.*

*As brass is harder and will stand wear much better than copper, so will brass*



*halftones give better results than copper plates. It will be interesting to examine the pictures with a magnifying glass. Each dot and line is a printing surface, and on brass these dots and lines are clearer and better than if etched on softer metal. More time and care are required to make halftones on brass but the price is the same as on copper.*

*Ampelopsis Lowii*

## **Ampelopsis Lowi**

(*Ampelopsis* or *Parthenocissus tricuspidata* Lowi)

The Geranium Creeper is a beautiful ivy-like plant with slender, pliable, bronzy runners and small, almost palmately lobed foliage having unusual teeth. Its mature foliage is apple-green, but the young foliage is unusually attractive, being pale olive with a purplish or bronzy flush and a deeper colored edging. The plant branches freely, with short, branching tendrils which cling with their adhesive tips and try to cover every inch of reachable surface. With the two-tone effect of the new and old foliage and the numerous branches reaching out in every direction, it has a delightful lacy effect.

The foliage turns red in autumn and holds that color for a long time before falling. We have a five-year-old plant, on a sun-dial pedestal, which we think is peculiarly pleasing.

It is a variety of the popular Boston Ivy, and is a native of Japan and China. Its common name, as given in Standardized Plant Names, fits well, for its leaves hint at refined Geranium foliage. —R. M. H.

## **Two Lovely Daphnes**

### **Daphne Cneorum**

**W**E HAVE a fine clump of plants of the lovely Rose Daphne or Garland Flower at Breeze Hill, and wish we had room for more. (By the way, the botanical name of the species doesn't need that confusing "C" in pronouncing. Just call it "nee-orum," and scold the botanist.)

It is just too bad that this Daphne has the name of being finicky, as it is really one of the most desirable of the small, evergreen, flowering shrubs.

Some gardeners have what is considered "wonderful" success with it, while others cannot keep a plant alive for more than a few months. The answer is undoubtedly, proper soil.

Daphne Cneorum is a native of the limestone mountain regions of central and western Europe, and Farrer tells us



that it is sometimes found growing beautifully in the acid soils of open woodland, but if the few inches of soil are removed the long yellow roots of the plants will be found extending far down in the limestone silt underneath. A satisfactory garden soil for it seems to be a mixture of loam, peat, sand, and plenty of lime, with an annual dressing of lime, seemingly a requisite for continued good health.

It will thrive in full sun or partial shade; in full sun the plants are smaller but the flowers larger than where the location is shaded. The plants are hardy in most of New England with slight winter protection—just enough to keep the late winter sun from getting in its deadly work.

The plants rarely reach a foot in height; the limber branches want to trail with only the tips held upright, and they spread out a foot to a foot and a half in all directions.

The foliage consists of short, glabrous needles, dark green above and glaucescent underneath.

The little pink flowers are in umbel-like heads and are so penetratingly fragrant that a few plants will spread their perfume all over the garden.

While the botanical references call for spring bloom only, our plants bloom twice—a very profuse bloom in late April and May, with a lighter crop of flowers in early autumn.



*Daphne Cneorum*

## **Daphne Mezereum**

Very different from *D. Cneorum*, but also desirable in every way, is the so-called February *Daphne*, of which Breeze Hill cherishes half a dozen plants.

This *Daphne* is also from Europe, but this time from shaded situations, which fact should be remembered when planting in gardens in this country.

It is a deciduous shrub, rarely growing over three feet tall, and in appearance more like a stubborn little tree than we would like, but when the fragrant flowers are open one can forget that the plant appears so stiff and ungraceful at times.

It is deciduous, with alternate, two- to three-inch, glabrous foliage, and the stalkless flowers, usually in clusters of three, appear before the foliage. Their color is between lilac-purple and rosy purple, but there are several variations of the purple theme, also a very good white.

The fragrance is heavy and distinct—one of those you will remember. Our plants, last year, bloomed during the last week in March and lasted about three weeks. The flowers are followed by bright scarlet fruit. It is hardy in New England.

The Breeze Hill plants are in quite heavy shade (probably a little too dense) in slightly acid, sandy loam. —R. M. H.



*Daphne Mezereum*

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## **A 1937 TEST**

Among the tests planned for Breeze Hill this summer is one of *Montbretias*, some three dozen varieties having been acquired. This should bring our records on these fine, summer-flowering, bulbous plants pretty well up to date.



SALVIA LEUCAN

CLITORIA TERNATEA





## Southern Plants for Northern Gardens

The following tender plants from Jos. W. Vestal & Son, Little Rock, Ark., were grown at Breeze Hill last year. They were so fine that, although they would not live outdoors over winter this far north, they are well worthy of being treated as annuals, especially as blooming-size plants are not expensive. They add beauty and distinction to any garden.—R. M. H.

### Salvia Leucantha

This Mexican Bush Salvia was very lovely when in bloom last fall—so lovely that we shall want it again, even if that does mean new plants every spring. (Dr. McFarland came home from Shreveport, La., full of enthusiasm about this *Salvia*.)

Our plants were set out late in April and did not come into bloom until late September, but those few weeks before frost were worth while.

Although *Hortus* gives the height as two feet, our plants made nearly six feet, with five-inch spires of white flowers, popping out at intervals from heavily tomentose, lavender-purple calyces. As there were very few of these white flowers appearing at one time, the flower-spikes, from a distance, looked like white moths perched on spikes of purple flowers, and the general effect was purple, punctuated with white.

The plants were close-growing, the ascending laterals keeping close to the main stem.

The long, narrow foliage is white, tomentose



beneath and sage-green above. It is an attractive plant in every way, bringing a novel touch to the fall garden.—R. M. H.

### **Antigonon leptopus**

**(Rosa-de-Montana; Coral Vine; Queen's Wreath)**

Although they made less than ten feet of growth, instead of the thirty or forty credited to them in their native Mexico and in Texas, we were delighted with our three plants last fall.

This Coral Vine is a tendril-climbing vine, with foliage so pleasing that it would be desirable even if it did not bloom.

At Breeze Hill the plants came into bloom about September 1, when the vines were eight feet high on the posts. The flowers are closed and in the form of a beechnut, bright pink in color, and there are from three to a dozen of them on each three- to six-inch bloom lateral. There is a peculiar elegance about them, and they have a distinct odor.

The foliage is quite thick, heart-shaped, entire, two to three and one-half inches long by one and one-half to three inches wide, light green in color.

The flowers have five petals, three wide and two narrow; the wide petals partly fold, leaving the two sides standing out like a butterfly's wings, and then twist, giving the flower a half-spiral formation. They remain in this condition a long time before finally opening. The Coral Vine, which is a tuberous-rooted plant, does best in poor soil and full sun.

### **Clitoria Ternatea (Texas Butterfly Pea)**

This tropical plant is a climber in its proper climate, but our plants, set out late last spring, became rather bushy, and the twining runners were never over three feet long.

The pale, almost gray-green foliage was quite attractive, and made a fine setting for the handsome flowers nestling in the axils of the leaf-stems.

The papilionaceous, solitary flowers, an inch and a half long by an inch and three-quarters wide, had the richest indigo-blue coloring one could imagine in a flower. From a

greenish white throat emerged nine stamens with pale straw-colored anthers and a single pistil, the stigma extending one-eighth inch beyond the anthers. All of these organs were enclosed in a white pea-shaped envelope inside the lower folding lips. The flowers are practically scentless, but they certainly are attractive.

Usually when these tropical plants are bloomed in northern gardens we have to be satisfied with a very few flowers, but this lovely thing bloomed right along during the season, and when frost came each plant carried dozens of long, narrow pea pods.

### **Hibiscus Rosa-sinensis** (Chinese Hibiscus; Rose of China)

We bloomed the variety *Brilliantissima* of this important group in the open at Breeze Hill last summer and were more than satisfied. Even one occasional glorious flower more than repays the effort expended on the plant—several flowers came to us during the season. It is supposed to grow to



*Coreopsis, Golden Giant*

thirty feet in China, but after the first superb bloom we did not care that our plant grew only to eighteen inches.

The flowers were six-inch, widely flaring trumpets of lustrous scarlet, with a four-inch projecting red tube of stamens and pistils; the garnet stigma was divided into five sections, and the bright yellow anthers were arranged around the tube three-fourths inch below the stigma. Truly a dazzling flower!

## **New Torch Lilies**

In last year's plants from Dreer were two *Kniphofias* (or *Tritomas* if you don't mind your botany) which attracted a great deal of attention and brought forth favorable comment.

If any of the tribe ever deserved the name of Red-Hot Poker, Mt. Etna is it; the great six-inch spikes of bloom were held bravely aloft on four-foot stems, and the flowers were a warm orange-red—the color seen in the glowing embers of a wood-fire. It seemed to me that the spikes of bloom were a little more shapely than any of the *K. Pfitzeri*'s blooms I had always admired; at any rate, they were very fine, lasted a long time, and the plants bloomed from the first of August pretty well through September.

The other variety, Tower of Gold, was strikingly distinct in color, but the spikes of bloom were of peculiar form and left much to be desired. The color was a shade of pale yellow, hardly gold, but then our plants were in the shade in early morning and late afternoon; possibly in full sun the color would have been deeper. It was the short, squatty build of the spikes we found fault with; the flower-stems were from two and one half to three feet tall with very flat spikes less than four inches long; if these had only been as shapely as those of Mt. Etna it would have seemed outstanding. It bloomed over the same period as Mt. Etna.

However, this Tower of Gold gave us a new color in this family; we are anxious to see what the plants do this season, as some catalogues state that the spikes are of normal length.

Our plants were in the perennial border in ordinary good soil.—R. M. H.

## **Coreopsis, Golden Giant**

With three- and one-half-inch, single flowers of rich golden yellow, shading to brownish yellow toward the base, this novelty from the Jackson & Perkins Co. is a real improvement over the old *C. lanceolata grandiflora*. The flowers are not only larger and of a better color, but they are fragrant and the plants are stronger and with heavier stems, so that there are but few nodding blooms. *Coreopsis* is one of the easiest perennials to grow and is one of our finest cut-flowers, so that any improvement is welcome. We liked Golden Giant very much.—R. M. H.

## **In the Studio**

The most exciting plant material to reach the Mt. Pleasant Press studio since the last issue of Breeze Hill News was a large pot of the Miniature Hyacinth, Royal Scarlet, forced from bulbs sent us by Breck's last fall.

While the name would indicate that the flowers are scarlet, our color-notes read cerise-red, with a carmine reverse. The effect is that of a very vivid red, which the Holland growers describe as a particularly rich shade of Hyacinth-red. No honest scarlet could attract more favorable attention.

The flower-spikes of this variety are more closely packed than those of the Roman Hyacinths, yet they are open enough to have that graceful, airy appearance we admire in the dwarf varieties.

These miniature Hyacinths seem easy to force, coming into bloom very early. Our bulbs were potted, then buried outside for a month; they were in full bloom about four weeks after being taken into the cool greenhouse. Its earliness, together with its distinct coloring, should insure this Hyacinth unusual popularity.

We are told that this variety is one of a peculiar type of Hyacinths which appears now and then in the cultures in Holland, and that there are a few other colors of the same type.—R. M. H.





ANTIGONON LEPTOPUS